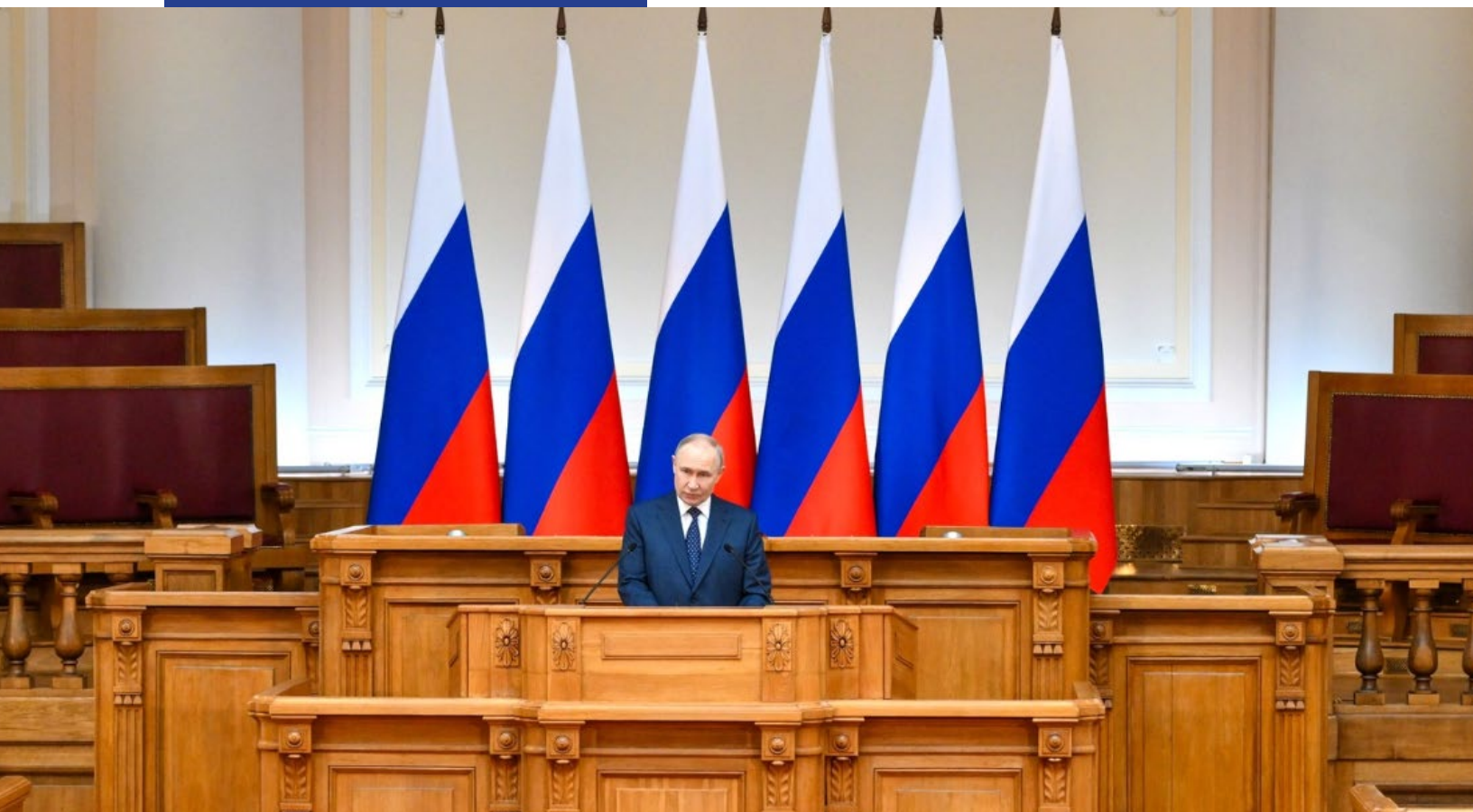


RUSSIAN EMBASSY WEEKLY

395



PRESIDENT ПРЕЗИДЕНТ

Meeting with Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov

Встреча с начальником Генштаба ВС РФ Валерием Герасимовым



Vladimir Putin: I would like to congratulate the entire personnel of all military units who took part in the defeat of the neo-Nazi formations that invaded Russian territory in the Kursk Region.

The affair of the Kiev regime has completely failed and the huge losses suffered by the enemy, including most combat-ready, trained and equipped – using, among other things, Western models of equipment – units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, including assault units, special forces, will certainly affect the entire line of

engagement.

The complete defeat of the enemy in the Kursk border area creates conditions for further successful actions by our troops in other important sectors of the front, bringing the defeat of the neo-Nazi regime closer.

Congratulations to the entire personnel, all soldiers and commanders on this success and victory. Thank you for your courage, heroism, and service to our Fatherland and the people of Russia.

Thank you.

Statement by the President of the Russian Federation

Заявление Президента Российской Федерации



On April 26, 2025, the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation finally defeated the group of Ukrainian militants that invaded the Kursk Region, putting an end to the criminal provocation perpetrated by the Ukrainian authorities in an attempt to seize part of the Russian Federation territory.

Units of the Korean People's Army played an active role in the fight that brought the defeat of the neo-Nazi formations of the Kiev regime that invaded our territory, in full compliance with international law and in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Treaty on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Russian Federation and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of June 19, 2024 – in particular, Article 4 of the Treaty, which requires each of the parties to provide immediate military assistance in the

event of an armed attack against the other.

Our Korean friends' move was guided by a sense of solidarity, justice and genuine comradeship. We highly appreciate this and are sincerely grateful, personally to the Chairman of State Affairs, Comrade Kim Jong-un, as well as the entire leadership and the people of the DPRK.

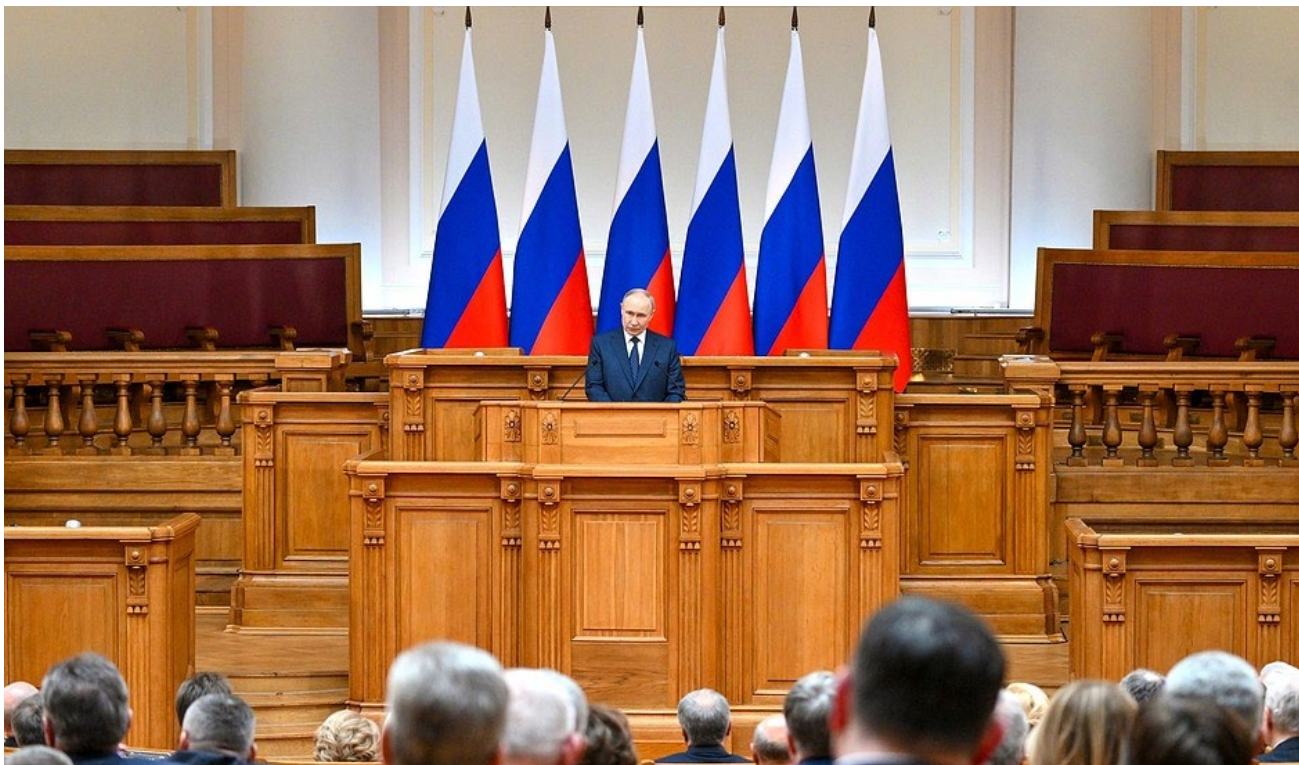
We commend the DPRK soldiers' heroism, their excellent training and dedication displayed while fighting, shoulder to shoulder with Russian soldiers, defending our Motherland as their own. They fulfilled their duty with honour and valour, covering themselves with unfading glory.

The Russian people will never forget the heroism of the DPRK special forces. We will always honour the heroes who gave their lives for Russia, for our common freedom, fighting side by side with their Russian brothers in arms.

We are confident that the strong bond of friendship, neighbourly relations and cooperation between our countries, tempered on the battlefield, will continue to grow and expand across the board.

Meeting with Council of Legislators members

Встреча с членами Совета законодателей



Vladimir Putin: first of all, I would like to congratulate the people of Russia, members of the Council of Legislators, and all your colleagues serving in representative bodies on the Day of Russian Parliamentarism. Thank you for your active and constructive cooperation.

The Day of Russian Parliamentarism, as we know, was celebrated yesterday. This significant date reflects the continuity and steady development of our statehood, the significance of your work at this pivotal stage

of our country's development and, of course, the fundamental nature of the constitutional principles of popular sovereignty. These principles help us strengthen our country, overcome challenges and difficulties with confidence, and achieve the major goals we have set together.

We can see that our political, civic, and legal systems are working effectively. Even under challenging conditions, including external pressure, they continue to demonstrate their resilience and, I would stress, their genuine sovereignty. The

main foundation of such strength and stability is the independent choice and trust of our citizens.

More than two centuries ago, our compatriot, the statesman and reformer Mikhail Speransky, observed that a state is governed by “three powers: legislative, executive and judicial.” He also noted that “the origin and source of these powers lie in the people themselves, for they are nothing other than the moral and physical strength of the people.”

It is crucial that today these “three powers” – the three branches of government – remain in balance and work in harmony with each other. This is because the primary criterion behind all decisions, their driving force and core, is the national interest. Not external lectures or pressures, but the firm, sovereign will of the Russian people, and our common desire to ensure the security and future of our Motherland.

As before, special emphasis should be placed on parliamentary diplomacy: consistently explaining and firmly upholding our position while defending the truth. It is important to continue strengthening ties through the EAEU, the CSTO, the CIS, BRICS, and the SCO, as well as with all our friends and like-minded partners, whose numbers

are steadily growing across various countries and continents. We are not closing the door to dialogue with Western parliamentarians in North America and Europe. If they choose not to maintain it, that is their decision. However, we remain open to communication, as we regularly discuss these issues with the leadership of both chambers.

Russia is open to mutually beneficial cooperation and supports integration processes based on the principles of respect for each other's sovereignty and our common history.

Tomorrow Volgograd will host the Great Heritage – Common Future international forum. It was organised on the initiative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Russia and Belarus and is timed to coincide with a sacred date for our fraternal peoples: the 80th anniversary of the Great Victory in the Great Patriotic War.

I cordially congratulate you on this upcoming holiday. We are proud of the heroic deeds of our fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers. We must be worthy of their heroism. Just like them, we must see our duty in honest service to our citizens, our Fatherland, and the people of Russia.

By order of the President of Russia, the Russian side announces a ceasefire for the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War

По решению Президента России в дни 80-летия Победы российская сторона объявляет перемирие



By order of Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, the Russian side, guided by humanitarian motives, announces a ceasefire for the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War to last from May 8, 00:00 Moscow time to May 11, 00:00 Moscow time. Any military operations will be ceased during this period.

Russia believes that the Ukrainian

side should follow this example.

In the event of any violations of the ceasefire by the Ukrainian side, the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation will give a proportionate and efficient response.

The Russian side reiterates its willingness to enter peace talks without preconditions, with a view to eliminating the root causes behind the Ukraine crisis and establishing constructive interaction with international partners.

Visit to memorial complex To the Heroes of the Battle of Stalingrad

Посещение мемориального комплекса «Героям Сталинградской битвы»



The presidents laid wreaths at the Eternal Flame in the Hall of Military Glory and placed flowers at the grave of Marshal Vasily Chuikov, twice Hero of the Soviet Union.

During the Battle of Stalingrad, Mamayev Kurgan was one of the most important parts of the defence system of the Stalingrad Front. The first obelisk was erected there on February 8, 1943, immediately after

the end of the sanguinary battles.

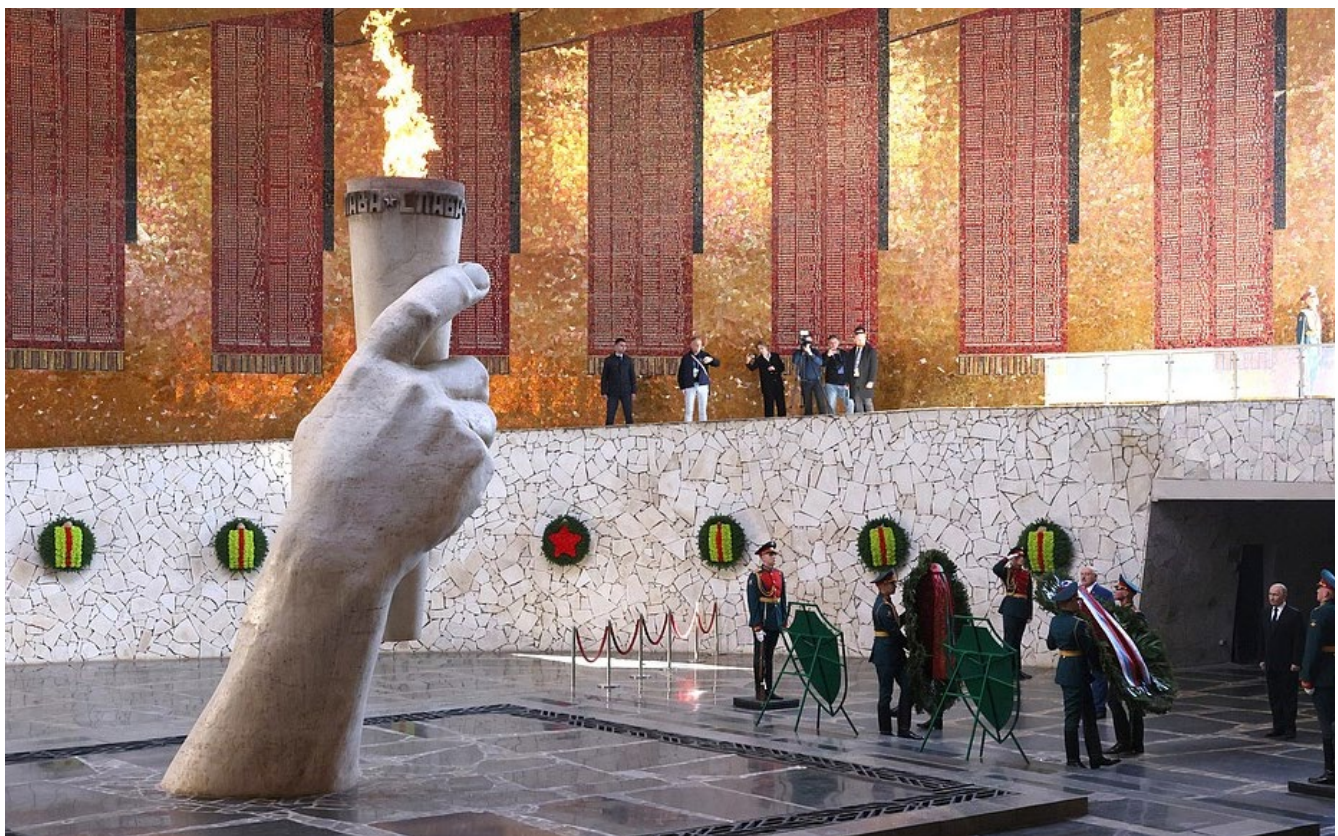
The memorial complex To the Heroes of the Battle of Stalingrad on Mamayev Kurgan comprises the Memory of Generations monuments, an alley of Lombardy Poplars, Fight to the Bitter Square, Symbolic Walls, the Square of Heroes, the Hall of Military Glory, and Sorrow Square. The centrepiece of the memorial is The Motherland Calls, an 85-metre



tall sculpture. Leading to the top of the hill are 200 granite steps – one for each day of the Battle of Stalingrad.

The 34 symbolic red banners bearing the names of the 7,200 servicemen who fell in that battle are

situated along the perimeter of the Hall of Military Glory. Over 35,000 defenders of Stalingrad have been interred at the memorial cemetery on Mamayev Kurgan.



Great Heritage, Common Future International Forum of the Union State

Международный форум Союзного государства «Великое наследие – общее будущее»



Vladimir Putin: I would like to greet you on this heroic and sacred land. This land is sacred for all the people of Russia, and for all the people of the former Soviet Union, too. It is here that the Great Heritage, Common Future International Forum is taking place.

Organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, the event brings together

speakers of parliaments, chairs of parliamentary committees, civil activists, researchers and experts from about 20 countries. It is important that foreign participants come from former Soviet republics, as we have just heard, and also from Southeast Asia, Europe and Latin America.

It is symbolic that this forum is taking place in the Hero City where the fate of the entire world was once decided.

<...> The fortitude and courage shown by the Red Army soldiers, the unity of the entire multiethnic nation became a formidable force. The enemy was halted and routed on the banks of the Volga. A decisive blow was dealt to the Nazi war machine, turning the tide of the war and clearing the path to the West, to Berlin, to the Great Victory, the 80th anniversary of which we will be celebrating very soon, on May 9.

Victory Day is one of the most significant holidays, held sacred in Russia as well as in most former Soviet republics. During the war, our nations went through the most bitter trials together, but they defended their independence and future. The defeat of Nazism is our shared legacy.

We are expecting the leaders of a number of states at the celebrations in Moscow. We highly appreciated many countries' decisions to send military crews to march shoulder to shoulder with Russian soldiers at the Victory Parade on Red Square. <...>

Many participants of the current forum actively collaborate with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation. We are grateful to all who contribute to the legislative support of constructive partnerships among CSTO Member States. <...>

2025 was declared the Year of

Peace and Unity in the Fight Against Nazism in the CIS. Many countries are holding memorial, social, cultural and educational events, such as the Immortal Regiment march, which has become nationwide. This is our tribute to the memory of our servicemen who perished during the war and an expression of our deep gratitude to our veterans, the generation of winners

We are all aware of the unfathomable price our peoples paid for victory over Nazism, and immense sacrifices we made. There is no doubt that people in Russia, Belarus and other countries will never forget the lessons of that war.

The main of them is obvious: we must do everything in our power to fight against the revival of Nazism and the proliferation of destructive ideologies, namely, Russophobia, antisemitism, national and religious intolerance, as well as the so-called exceptionalism, which camouflage claims to global domination and attempts at pressure or interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

It is also important to work together to form a more just multipolar world order based on respect for the interests of each other and the right of every country to its own development pattern.

We firmly believe that the global

community should join forces to create a new architecture of equal and indivisible security, which would safely protect all states without detriment to the interests of others. This is especially important for Eurasia. Our common continent must become a territory of peace and stability and an example of sustainable economic, social and

humanitarian development.

This new architecture could be based on the existing multilateral cooperation formats, such as the Union State, the CSTO, the CIS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, BRICS, ASEAN and other respected and influential organisations.



Meeting with President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko

Встреча с Президентом Белоруссии Александром Лукашенко



Vladimir Putin: Mr Lukashenko,

Thank you once again for marking glorious Victory with us here on the hallowed Stalingrad land in Volgograd. We look forward to seeing you in Moscow on May 9, the day of the main celebrations. I am aware that you have decided on your ceremonial unit marching on Red Square on that day as well. Thank you very much.

Of course, as usual, we have an opportunity to discuss, formally and

informally, current affairs, which are many. Suffice it to say that in trade and economic ties alone we have achieved, to put it bluntly, an outstanding result of over \$50 billion in trade. According to your statistical data, the figure is even a little bit larger: according to ours it is slightly over 50, about 51. According to Belarusian data, it is slightly over 51.

Without a doubt, we will need to discuss matters of industrial

cooperation. We agreed to expand it through joint work in the aircraft construction, the aircraft industry, among other things. I would like to inform you about our proposals. We are ready to lay down a plant and an appropriate laboratory for unmanned aerial vehicles in conjunction with your specialists. This is crucial primarily for the economy and logistics.

We have earlier agreements regarding aircraft construction; we

managed to preserve a portion of the aviation industry. There are things to work on in this department as well including a small airplane, cooperation on medium-range airplanes, and so on.

We will discuss other areas as well. Our respective governments are working on these issues all the time. You and I are aware of what our colleagues are discussing. So, I am very pleased to see you.

Welcome again.



Meeting with participants of the Znaniye. The First educational marathon

Встреча с участниками просветительского марафона «Знание. Первые»



Vladimir Putin: i am very pleased to see you ahead of such wonderful, bright holidays as Victory Day.

Here we have cultural figures and our very young specialists in the sphere of information dissemination and creating essential – as it is fashionable to say these days – content.

Of course, all the work this year through the Znaniye Society is devoted to this central theme – Victory Day.

This is a special day for all of us,

for our people, for practically every Russian family. In Soviet times, this holiday was often described with words from a song – it is a “holiday with tears in the eyes.”

First and foremost, it is undoubtedly a celebration because Victory Day and everything that took place during the Second World War – or, as we call it, the Great Patriotic War – represent, without question, a triumph of our people, a triumph of the Soviet people and the Russian people. Perhaps, above all, the Russian people, because

if we examine the losses numbers, Russia, as part of the Soviet Union – then referred to as the RSFSR, the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic – accounted for about 70 percent, 69-something, almost 70 percent of the losses.

That is why we always emphasise this – it is the truth: all the peoples of the Soviet Union made an enormous contribution; no one spared themselves, everyone worked towards the common Victory. However, the Russian Federation, due to its scale, naturally made the greatest contribution to this Victory and laid the most on the altar of this Victory – its sons and daughters who perished defending the Motherland and defending our future.

Now, I would like to say a few words about the Znaniye Society. The initiative for its creation was put forward by our prominent scientist and then-President of the USSR Academy of Sciences Sergei Vavilov. That is where it all began. Indeed, in earlier years, back in Soviet times, the title of lecturer was highly respected and always held in great esteem.

Following its revival, with the new incarnation of the Znaniye Society, its work has progressed quite rapidly and, I should say, effectively. There are already 30,000 lecturers, with an

audience of 50 million people. And that's saying something.

Today, we must also discuss these matters using the real-life examples of our soldiers fighting in the special military operation zone, defending the Fatherland, as well as the specific examples from the Second World War, the Great Patriotic War. Only then will it truly be met with trust and understanding, truly touching the heart and soul of everyone who encounters this information. Only when it is conveyed from heart to heart, through personal stories, does it inspire trust. That is the first point.

And the second, very important matter is this: when someone tells us – you, me, or the millions of other Russian citizens – about their grandparents, we perceive it as part of ourselves. If my father, if my grandfather or great-grandfather was such a hero, then somewhere in my genes, I have it too. It means that I can and I should. This is an exceptionally important thing. I believe we must preserve this, both on a national scale and within each individual family. Then, without any doubt, we will achieve the results we need – victory – in any field, in any endeavour. This is what I wanted to tell you at the outset.

Meeting with Oliver Stone

Встреча с Оливером Стоуном



Vladimir Putin met with film director Oliver Stone at the Victory Museum.



Meeting with Deputy Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Встреча с заместителем Премьер-министра ОАЭ Сейфом Аль Нахайяном



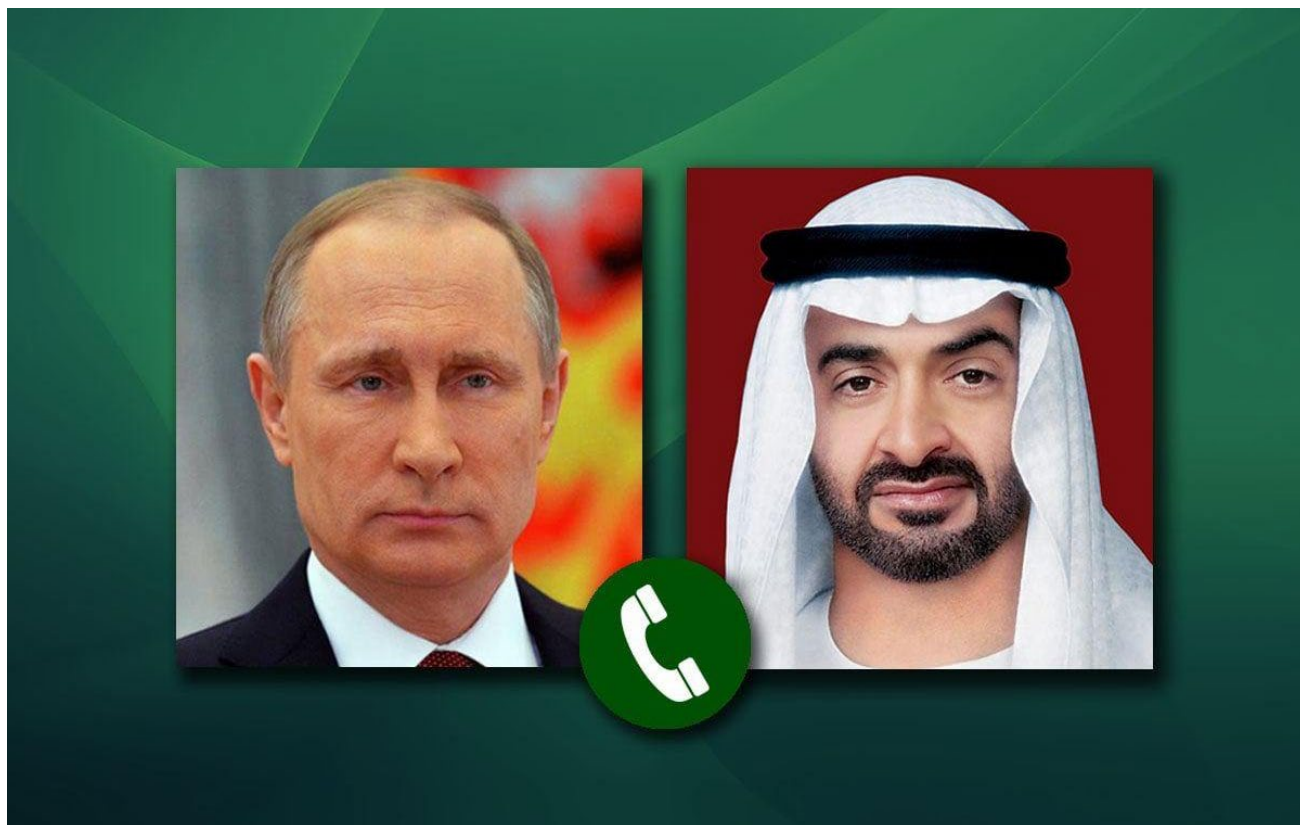
Vladimir Putin met in the Kremlin with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Russia's Minister of Internal Affairs Vladimir Kolokoltsev also attended the meeting.



Telephone conversation with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Телефонный разговор с Президентом ОАЭ Мухаммедом Аль Нахайяном



The leaders expressed satisfaction with the current state of Russia-UAE relations, which constitute a strategic partnership and continue to develop successfully across political, trade, economic, and humanitarian spheres. This close cooperation enables ongoing dialogue even on the most sensitive international issues.

Vladimir Putin highly praised the UAE's assistance with prisoner

exchanges between Russia and Ukraine. In particular, thanks to the Emirati side's efforts, 246 Russian members of the military returned home on Easter eve, April 19.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan congratulated Vladimir Putin and the Russian nation on the upcoming 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War.

**Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's
interview with CBS**

**Интервью Министра иностранных дел Российской
Федерации С.В.Лаврова телеканалу «Си-би-эс»**



Key talking points:

-We continue our contacts with the American Side on the situation in Ukraine. There are several signs that we are moving in the right direction, first of all, because President Trump is probably the only leader on Earth who recognized the need to address the root causes of this situation. When he

said that it was a huge mistake to pull Ukraine into NATO, and this was a mistake by the Biden administration, and he wants to rectify this.

- We only target military goals or civilian sites used by the military. President Putin expressed this for so many times, and this is not different this time as well. We never consciously target civilian sites, unlike

the Zelensky regime.

-The Trump administration is interested in searching for a balance of interests. They sincerely want to understand better the Russian position. And they're getting this understanding. And we understand better the American position through negotiations and meetings and discussions, which we have with them.

- We are really polite people. And unlike some others, we never discuss in public what is being discussed in negotiations. Otherwise, negotiations are not serious.

- Whenever we discuss Iran, Venezuela, North Korea, anything, American negotiators put on top human rights. They have claims in this regard to China, to us, to anybody. But whenever Europeans and other Western nations speak about Ukraine, nobody can even mumble the words "human rights".

-We have nothing against American companies, but those companies who decided to leave their business in Russia might find that their place has been already taken by Russian or other foreign investors. And in this case, we would not make any decisions which would discriminate those who came to invest in Russia instead of Americans. If American companies would like to come to a place which

is not yet occupied, if they want to propose a project, a new project on top of the previous business ties, of course, we will look into this. And if we find balance of our interests, I think it would be only natural to get into business together.

-We have been promoting for many years in the United Nations a resolution prohibiting putting any nuclear weapons into outer space. The country which is categorically against it is the United States. At least during the Biden administration, this was the case, they were categorically against it. At the same time, the United States promotes an approach according to which they want to prohibit putting conventional weapons in outer space. And they cannot answer the question, "Does this mean that nuclear weapons, they would be planning to move to the orbit?"

- It was the United States which broke the process of strengthening strategic stability. And if the United States is willing to get back to this track, we will see what are the conditions under which this might be possible.

-We welcome the dialogue between the US and Iran. We would be certainly ready to help if both parties believe this is going to be useful. And they know that we are ready.

**On April 27, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov
and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio
held a telephone conversation**

**27 апреля состоялся телефонный разговор
Министра иностранных дел Российской Федерации
С.В.Лаврова с Государственным секретарем США
М.Рубио**



The Parties continued their productive exchange of views on key aspects of the Russian-American political dialogue, which recently has significantly intensified.

The main focus was the Ukraine crisis. Building on the discussions between President of Russia Vladimir Putin and US Presidential Special Envoy Steve Witkoff on April 25, the Minister and the Secretary of

State highlighted the importance of reinforcing the emerging conditions necessary to launch negotiations aimed at establishing a reliable framework for long-term, sustainable peace.

Other international issues were also addressed.

Both Sides agreed to maintain contact at all levels.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's interview with Brazilian O Globo newspaper

Интервью Министра иностранных дел России С.В.Лаврова бразильской газете «О Глобо»



Question Expanding trade among BRICS countries is one of the objectives for Brazil's chairmanship in this group in 2025. What kind of opportunities does Russia see in terms of increasing the share of trade transactions in national currencies?

Sergey Lavrov: We are witnessing an accelerating trend in the fragmentation of the global economy. Against this backdrop, it is quite natural for the countries of the Global South and East to reduce the share of Western currencies in their mutual settlements. No one wants to suffer from sanctions. <...>.

We have been working within #BRICS to ensure that there are no disruptions when carrying

out payments and have been quite effective in our efforts. To give you an example, the ruble and currencies of our friendly countries accounted for 90% of Russia's settlements with BRICS countries in 2024. <...>

Question: Reinforcing global governance and promoting multilateralism is another major topic for BRICS. What do you think BRICS countries can do to this effect?

Sergey Lavrov: BRICS has become much stronger compared to when this group took shape back in 2006. Today, it stands as a focal point with a mission to coordinate the interests of the Global Majority's leading countries. BRICS fully adheres to the principles of equality, mutual respect and balance of interest.

Russia views this group as one of the pillars of a multipolar world and an important mechanism for international cooperation. <...> BRICS countries are not seeking to take someone else's place. Their aim consists of creating a favourable environment for building capacity.

Question: Brazil calls for expanding the UN Security Council. What is Russia's current stance on this issue? Would it vote for making Brazil a permanent member?

Sergey Lavrov: Russia believes in a balanced reform of the Security Council as one of the main UN bodies. <...> Shaping of a multipolar world should include broader representation of the countries of the Global South and East, that is, Asian, African and Latin American countries, at the UNSC.

Brazil is the right candidate for a permanent seat on the UNSC.

We are against giving more seats to Western countries and their allies.

Key points:

- We got the impression that our American counterparts now have a better understanding of Russia's stance on the situation around Ukraine. We hope that this will help them during their dialogue with Kiev and individual European countries.

- The fact that the current administration in the United States is trying to understand the root causes of the crisis is quite encouraging and contrasts with the Joe Biden administration which pumped the Kiev regime full of lethal weapons

and was proactive in its efforts to draw Ukraine into NATO.

- Zelensky's regime has shown that it lacks the political will for peace and the ability to stop the war, which is being fuelled by the Russophobic circles of certain EU countries, primarily France and Germany, as well as Britain.

- Instead of facilitating a settlement, the European Union has been seeking to undermine agreements by arguing that there has been little, if any, effort to invite it to contribute to these talks.

- Russia appreciates the striving of our partners to help create conditions for a peaceful settlement of the Ukrainian crisis. Over 20 countries and a number of regional associations in Latin America, Asia and Africa have put forth such initiatives.

- We have made no secret regarding our position on the settlement. Russia proceeds from the premise that Kiev's non-accession to NATO, as well as reaffirming its neutral and non-aligned status. <...> The second pillar consists of overcoming the legacy of the neo-Nazi regime which took power in Kiev after the February 2014 putsch. <...> The international recognition of Crimea, Sevastopol, the DPR, the LPR, the Kherson and Zaporozhye regions as part of Russia is another imperative.

On April 28, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China Wang Yi held a meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS Foreign Ministers Council meeting in Rio de Janeiro

28 апреля в Рио-де-Жанейро «на полях» СМД БРИКС состоялась встреча Министра иностранных дел РФ С.В.Лаврова с Министром иностранных дел Китайской Народной Республики Ван И



The Parties praised the current state of bilateral relations, which are developing amidst ongoing global turbulence. They also discussed the progress in implementing the agreements reached by President of Russia Vladimir Putin and President of China Xi Jinping, including current issues of practical cooperation.

Special focus was placed on the preparations for the Chinese President's upcoming official visit to Russia to attend the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. The Ministers noted the key importance of the leaders' diplomacy for further deepening the relations of

comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation between the two countries, including coordination in the international arena.

An in-depth discussion took place on the current state and development prospects of BRICS, with the Parties noting the Group's growing international authority and its role in developing a constructive dialogue regarding the global agenda.

Additionally, the Sides reaffirmed mutual intention to further step up coordination in the UN, SCO, BRICS, and other major international organisations and multilateral formats.

Sergey Lavrov: together with China, our BRICS and SCO partners, and other allies, we are active participants in this transformation and stand at the forefront of the movement for justice and equality. This imposes a special responsibility on us, especially in fulfilling the objectives set by the leaders of our countries.

(excerpt from Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's opening remarks at the meeting with Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China Wang Yi)

The conversation took place in an atmosphere of trust typical of Russia-China dialogue.



Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's remarks and answers to media questions following BRICS Ministerial Meeting, Rio de Janeiro

Выступление и ответы на вопросы СМИ Министра иностранных дел РФ С.В.Лаврова по итогам СМД БРИКС



Sergey Lavrov: I would like to once again thank our Brazilian friends for their traditional hospitality and the excellent organisation of the BRICS Ministerial Meeting, as well as for holding the additional meeting between BRICS participants and their partner countries.

These countries were able to take part in today's meeting following

the Kazan Summit. Held as part of Russia's chairmanship, it made a historical decision to create this partner category, which includes Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda and Uzbekistan. <...>

We spoke out in favour of further enhancing the contribution by BRICS and the countries of the Global Majority in general to

addressing the key challenges the world is facing today. We noted that collective actions by our group can play an important role in achieving sustainable development goals, ensuring security and fostering economic growth.

At the meeting, we paid special attention to the need to continue our efforts to promote reform within international financial institutions, primarily by revising IMF quotas, which must reflect the role of the Global South and East in the global financial system and economy. <...>

There was quite a lengthy discussion on the latest regional and international developments, including the multiple crisis situations around the world. The deteriorating situation in the Palestinian territories and across the Middle East in general, as well as in many regions of the African continent is a matter of special concern. <...>

We reaffirmed our support for reforming the UN Security Council, including our support for India and Brazil becoming permanent members of the UN Security Council, while also addressing the issue of Africa's representation.

Much has been said about the Ukraine situation. Once again, we offered a detailed insight into our

principled approaches to settling this conflict by addressing its root causes.



Excerpts from the Q&A session:

- Our proposal, which President Vladimir Putin has made public, is to initiate direct talks without any preconditions. In the current situation, a ceasefire is a preliminary condition that will be used to provide assistance to the Kiev regime and reinforce its combat capabilities.

- Certainly, it is imperative that all parties have a clear understanding of the evolving dynamics between Moscow and Washington. <...> We advocate for an honest and equal dialogue aimed at building a balance of interests. The United States has reciprocated with similar signals. Russia and the US are working together across multiple domains. In fact, they continue to cooperate literally as we speak.

- National currencies account for

over 65% of trade between BRICS countries, while the share of the US dollar has diminished to one third. Other tasks stipulate the creation of payment instruments and platforms, including discussing the possibility of creating a cross-border payment system and an electronic depository and clearance system (BRICS Clear), and a unified mechanism for exchanging trade and economic

information.

-The International Criminal Court has completely discredited itself. It is being steered by Western countries. It protects some countries from criticism even though they openly violate international law, and adopts measures aimed at punishing other countries, up to and including arrest warrants, in the absence of factual proof.



Press release on Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's participation in BRICS foreign ministers' meeting

Об участии Министра иностранных дел России С.В.Лаврова во встрече глав внешнеполитических ведомств государств БРИКС



On April 28–29, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov took part in the Brazil-chaired meeting of BRICS foreign ministers in Rio de Janeiro.

The meeting also included an expanded ministerial session with the participation of representatives of BRICS partner states (Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan). The decision to establish this category of states was

made at the BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, in October 2024.

The ministers held an in-depth exchange of views on a wide range of current international issues and on interaction at multilateral venues. They also discussed further cooperation under the BRICS auspices and preparations for the upcoming 17th BRICS Summit scheduled for July 6–7. They reaffirmed their countries' intent to continue working

in all three key strategic partnership areas: politics and security, the economy and finances, culture and the humanitarian ties.

The participants in the meeting unanimously called for strengthening multilateralism and preserving the UN's central role in maintaining peace and security, ensuring sustainable development, and aligning efforts for the fight against climate change.

There were earnest discussions on the state of and prospects for a reform of the international system with an eye to ensuring a fair and equal security,

sustainable development, and long-term economic growth for all states without exception.

The Russian Foreign Minister pointed to the relevance of joint efforts to ensure sustainable development of the Global South and East countries and reduce the conflict potential in various regions of the world. In this context, he stressed the importance of the concept of new equal and indivisible security architecture in Eurasia, put forward by President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin.



Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's remarks at a joint news conference with Foreign Minister of the Dominican Republic Roberto Alvarez following talks

Выступление Министра иностранных дел РФ С.В.Лаврова на совместной пресс-конференции с Министром иностранных дел Доминиканской Республики Р.Альваресом по итогам переговоров



Sergey Lavrov: Ladies and gentlemen,

I believe the talks that Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic Roberto Alvarez and I just had were very productive, and were held in an atmosphere of mutual trust.

We discussed in detail bilateral, regional, and international issues, including our interaction at the UN.

We noted that this is the first visit by the Russian Foreign Minister to the Dominican Republic in the history of our relations, which will turn 80 soon. This visit is timed to coincide with the opening of the Embassy of the Russian

Federation in Santo Domingo.

Our Ambassador Alexey Seredin and his small, but tight-knit and efficient staff have been working here for several weeks now. <...> We will help them in every way we can for the Embassy to start functioning in its own premises as soon as possible and to focus on promoting our relations with the Dominican Republic across all areas.

The Dominican Republic is our promising partner in Latin America and the Caribbean. We appreciate the traditional friendly ties between us that are based on mutual respect and balance of interests. <...>

Both sides have noted the availability of significant opportunities for deepening our trade and economic cooperation. We covered promising areas of interaction, primarily, tourism. Tourist exchanges are further promoted by the implementation of the Agreement between the Government

of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Dominican Republic on the terms and conditions for waiving visa formalities for mutual travel of the citizens of the Russian Federation and the citizens of the Dominican Republic. That is, travel for citizens of the two countries is visa-free. <...>

We agreed to promote the establishment of direct contacts between business circles and support them every step of the way. There are initiatives from both sides, including the initiative of the Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the Russian Federation, who, in conjunction with our Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is preparing a business forum to present the opportunities offered by the Dominican Republic. Russian regions will be invited to participate. This is a promising approach which we will promote in every possible way. <...>

Both sides are interested in expanding cultural, humanitarian, and educational ties, including training professional staff. We provide government scholarships - and will continue to do so - to Dominican students studying at Russian universities. <...>

We discussed our interaction at the UN. We noted that in most

cases our positions overlap. We are grateful to the Dominican Republic for supporting a number of Russian initiatives, including resolutions on unacceptability of glorifying Nazism, the importance of preventing militarisation of outer space, and a number of other initiatives, including a recently adopted resolution - for the first time ever - on the importance of countering the revival of colonialism in any form.

We also focused on discussions about the UN reform and the multipolar world order trends. In this regard, at the request of my colleague, I provided a detailed account of the discussions and final decisions of the BRICS Ministerial Council meeting and the meeting of #BRICS members with partner states, which took place in Rio de Janeiro on April 28-29.

I see that conceptually and substantively we can coordinate our actions, because the Russian Federation has an observer status with the Association of Caribbean States. We hope that it will soon acquire the same status with the Central American Integration System.

I would like to once again say thank you to our Dominican friends for the excellent hospitality and organisation of the events, and warm weather, too.

**Ballistic missile submarine Krasnoyarsk fires
Kalibr cruise missile at onshore target amidst
planned training in Pacific ocean**

**Атомный подводный крейсер «Красноярск» в
ходе планового учения в Тихом океане нанёс удар
крылатой ракетой «Калибр» по береговой цели**



The crew of the submarine also engaged a mock enemy submarine.

The ballistic missile submarine during the drills moved in stealth mode to the assigned grid of the Pacific. There, it launched a Kalibr cruise missile against the onshore target. The cruise missile hit the target at the Kura training ground of the Kamchatka Peninsula. The range to the target exceeded 1,100km.

The ballistic missile submarine

Krasnoyarsk searched for the mock enemy submarine and attacked it by an anti-submarine rocket during the second phase of the training. According to the objective control footage, the warhead of the anti-submarine rocket hit the target.

Commander-in-Chief of the Navy, Admiral Aleksandr Moiseyev, thanked the crew for successful missile launches.

Northeastern Group of Troops and Forces secured maritime traffic and flight zone.

The Krasnoyarsk is the second ballistic missile submarine of project 885M Yasen-M was constructed at Sevmash shipyard. In December 2023, the Russian Navy took the Krasnyarsk submarine into service. In September 2024, the crew arrived to the home station in Kamchatka after an overseas trip crossing the Northern Sea Route.

A ship detachment of the Pacific Fleet comprising corvettes Rezky and Hero of the Russian Federation Aldar Tsydenzhapov of the Russian Federation as well as the medium sea tanker Pechenga arrived in Sihanoukville port of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Отряд кораблей Тихоокеанского флота в составе корветов «Резкий», «Герой РФ Алдар Цыденжапов» и среднего морского танкера «Печенга» прибыл в порт Сиануквиль Королевства Камбоджа



Russian sailors are to have official events with the servicemen of the Cambodian Navy, see local sights, and take part in sport competitions.

Shortly before that, the Pacific Fleet crews underwent the PASSEX joint naval drills with the Royal Thai Navy in the Gulf of Thailand.

SPECIAL MILITARY OPERATION СПЕЦИАЛЬНАЯ ВОЕННАЯ ОПЕРАЦИЯ



https://t.me/mod_russia/52051



https://t.me/mod_russia/52008



https://t.me/mod_russia/51893



https://t.me/mod_russia/51894

On April 30, the Russian Embassy in the United States hosted another screening of one of the best documentaries about the Great Patriotic War, “Unknown War,” on the occasion of Victory Day

В посольстве России в США состоялся кинопоказ приуроченной ко Дню Победы «Неизвестная война»



The guests from among the employees of diplomatic missions of the CIS countries, compatriots and Russian journalists, together with the employees of the Embassy, other Russian diplomatic establishments in the U.S. and their families watched two episodes of the famous film epic “Battle for Berlin” and “Unknown

Soldier”.

The participants of the event were able to see the exhibition of unique archival photo documents “Their Feats are Immortal” organized by the TASS news agency and dedicated to the heroism of the Soviet people during the Great Patriotic War. Among the exhibits are frontline photos, reports



by war correspondents, letters from the front line and personal stories of heroes - soldiers, officers and home front workers.

The materials presented at the exposition open new facets of the war period, testifying to the courage of the great generation of Soviet people who defended the freedom and



independence of our Motherland and saved the world from Nazism.

The exhibition and movie screenings of Soviet classics, as well as the best Russian films in the context of the 80th anniversary of Victory will continue.



**WE REMEMBER
МЫ ПОМНИМ**

Brno liberated by the Red Army

Красная Армия освободила Брно



On April 26, 1945, the city of Brno, one of Czechoslovakia's major industrial centres, was liberated by the Red Army from the Nazi invaders as part of the Bratislava-Brno offensive.

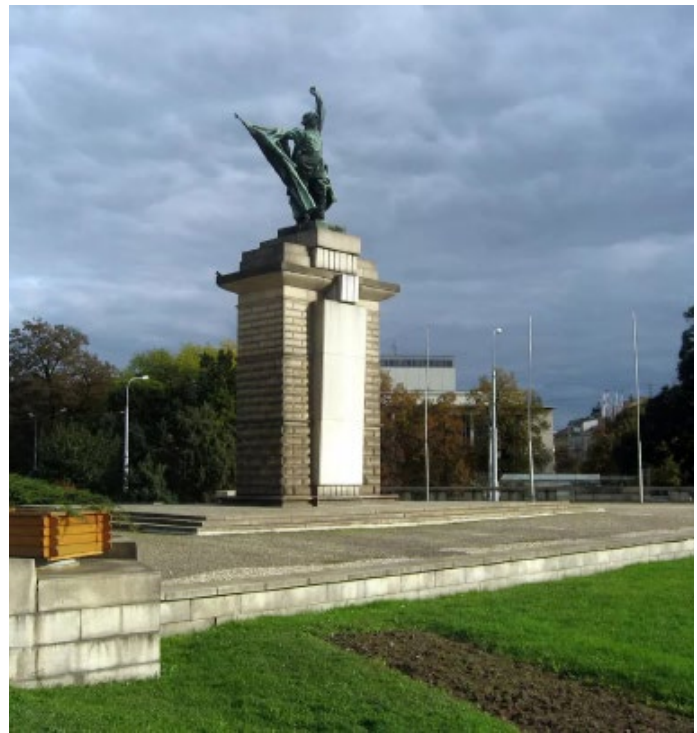
After the Soviet forces expelled the Nazis from Bratislava, the Red Army breached the Wehrmacht's Moravia massive defensive line, encircling the Brno sector

on April 22. The next day, the Soviet soldiers launched the decisive attack on the Nazis.

Following the occupation of Czechoslovakia, Brno had turned into a major Third Reich industrial and production hub where the Skoda and Zbrojovka weapons manufacturers were located, as well as a sub-camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau (Oswiecim).

The city being strategically important, the Nazi invaders mounted counterattacks in a desperate effort to halt the Red Army's onslaught. However, by April 25, Soviet units had already reached several sectors of Brno, engaging the enemy on its outskirts and crossing the Svitava River. By the evening of April 26, the Soviet forces took full control of the city. On the same day, a 20-volley artillery salute of 224 guns was performed in Moscow to mark the event.

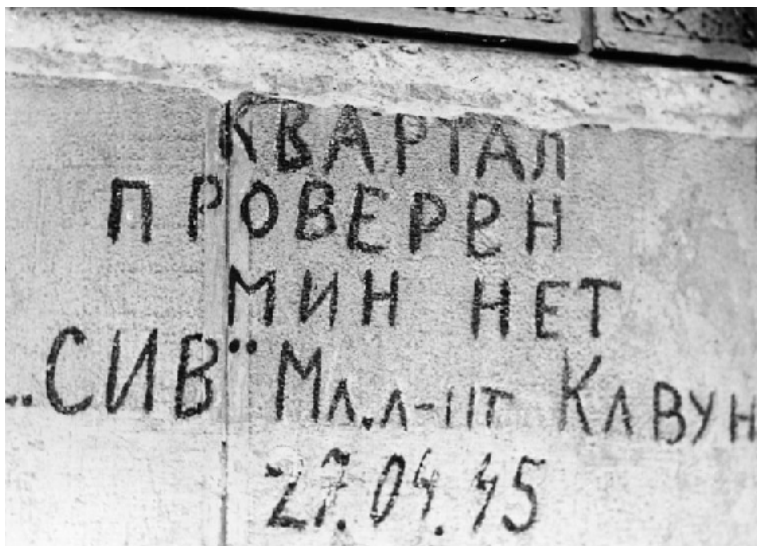
The 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps commanded by Ludvík Svoboda, along with Czechoslovak partisans, were actively involved in the liberation of country, providing substantial support to the Red Army units. Six Czechoslovak citizens were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for their deeds during



the Great Patriotic War, more than any other foreign nationals.

The liberation of Brno allowed the Red Army to launch an offensive on the remaining enemy forces and clearing the way to Nazi-occupied Prague.

The monument to the Soviet liberator soldier, unveiled on Brno's Moravian Square, commemorates the Red Army's heroic deeds. Unfortunately, it has been repeatedly vandalised. We trust that there are still those in the Czech Republic who cherish the memory of the fallen heroes.



**80 years ago — on April 30, 1945, the forces of the
2nd Belorussian Front of the Red Army under the
command of Marshal Konstantin Rokossovsky liberated
prisoners of the largest women's concentration camp in
Nazi Germany — Ravensbrück**

**80 лет назад — 30 апреля 1945 года — войска
2-го Белорусского фронта под командованием
Маршала Константина Константиновича
Рокоссовского освободили узников Равенсбрюка —
крупнейшего женского концлагеря**



More than 132'000 women and children were Ravensbrück prisoners during WWII, of whom about 100'000 were killed by the Nazis or died from horrendous and inhumane conditions of confinement. The Germans brought prisoners there from all over Europe, regardless of

their nationality or ethnicity. Soviet women were the second largest group of Ravensbrück prisoners.

During WWII, among the camp's prisoners there were niece of French President Charles de Gaulle Geneviève de Gaulle-Antonioz, Polish film director Wanda

Jakubowska, Soviet intelligence officer and Hero of the Soviet Union Maria Bayda, spouse of a prominent figure of the German communist movement Ernst Thalmann Rosa Thalmann and others.

Women of various ages died in the camp of starvation, exhausting labour, and physical abuse by the guards. Since 1942, Ravensbrück was used by the Nazis as a 'death camp', where people were purposefully exterminated. The Nazis killed their victims in gas chambers and burned the bodies in a crematorium.

Cruel and inhuman medical experiments were conducted on concentration camp inmates, mass sterilisation of female prisoners was carried out.

German torturers deliberately inflicted serious injuries on women, amputated healthy limbs, infected the prisoners with gangrene, and injected infectious agents (staphylococcus, tetanus, various types of bacteria) in order to conduct experiments in wound healing and transplantation.

On April 30, 1945, the 492nd Rifle Regiment of the 199th Rifle Division of the 49th Army of the 2nd Belorussian Front of the Red Army after the fierce fighting against the Nazis completely

liberated Ravensbrück.

Soviet liberators were welcomed by 3'000 prisoners. Among those rescued there were 700 Soviet citizens, including prominent activists of the communist movement. On the liberation day, the former prisoners of the camp took an oath:

On April 27, due to the rapid advancement of the Soviet forces to Ravensbrück, the Nazis evacuated a significant number of the camp's prisoners. They drove up to 30,000 people to the 'death march' to the west, leaving in place only helpless, exhausted people who were unable to move. They were in an exceptionally bad condition, without food, or any medical help.

The Soviet command issued an instruction to take urgent measures to save the people left in the camp. A military hospital was opened, where the best Soviet doctors fought for the lives of the liberated prisoners. Food was provided, and disinfection was carried out throughout the camp. Water supply and sewerage were rebuilt, and the necessary medicines were delivered.

In 1959, a museum and a memorial complex were opened in Ravensbrück in memory of the camp's victims and Soviet liberators.

Faces of Victory

Лица Победы

During the battle of Berlin on April 30, 1945, Red Army soldier Nikolay Masalov rescued a German little girl — by risking his life, Masalov took the kid to safety from the zone that was under heavy Nazi fire.

This brave and honourable deed by Nikolay Masalov was immortalised in the worldwide famous ‘Liberator Soldier’ monument in Berlin. It was unveiled back in 1949 in Treptower Park, where over 7,000 Red Army soldiers, who perished in the Battle of Berlin, are entombed. The centrepiece of that famous memorial complex, the figure of a Soviet soldier holding a German girl, has become a symbol of the noble mission of the Red Army, which saved Europe from the ‘Nazi plague’, and of the Great Victory of the Soviet people over Nazi Germany.

In the morning of April 30, 1945, before the Red Army attack on a Nazi defence outpost, the Tempelhof Airport, Nikolay Masalov heard a child crying. Marshall Vassily Chuikov recalled in his memoirs: “The kid’s voice sounded as if it came from under



the ground, calling out again and again a word that is understandable to everyone, ‘Mutter, Mutter.’”

Nikolay Masalov hurried to rescue the kid. Risking his life, the soldier crawled across a bridge over the Landwehr Canal, which was under enemy fire, and saved a three-year-old girl. He found her near the body of her mother, who had been killed by the Nazis during the shelling.

Masalov took the girl and moved back to the Soviet positions, which the enemy kept under heavy machine-gun fire. In return, the Soviet forces had to open artillery fire on the Nazi positions.

People all around the world knew about Nikolay Masalov, a humble Soviet soldier and a legendary WWII veteran. But he never considered his heroism as something extraordinary.

“I am a Russian soldier. Anyone would do the same in my place.”

On April 30, 1945 Red Army soldiers Rakhimzhan Koshkarbayev and Grigory Bulatov raised the first Red Banner on the facade of the Reichstag during the Battle of Berlin

30 апреля 1945 года бойцы 674-го стрелкового полка 150-й стрелковой дивизии Рахимжан Кошкарбаев и Григорий Булатов в ходе штурма Рейхстага водрузили на фасаде здания первое Красное знамя

On April 28, fierce fighting for the Reichstag was in full swing, which the Nazis had turned into a fully-fledged stronghold defended by more than a thousand soldiers, including SS troops, supported by artillery and armor.

The distance between the former Himmler's house and the Reichstag was less than 500 metres.

It took Bulatov and Koshkarbayev 7 hours to cover the distance under constant heavy fire — they carried a makeshift flagpole with a simple scarlet cloth with them.

Later after the battle, Koshkarbayev recalled:

“The artillery fire began, and with the very first fires, Bulatov and I dashed toward the Reichstag. I lifted him up by the legs, and together, on the second floor, we raised our flag.”

According to the 150th Division's combat log, at 14:25 Bulatov and

Koshkarbayev “crawled to the central part of the building and placed a red flag on the steps of the main entrance”.

It was the first of the banners the liberators raised over the Reichstag.

Rakhimzhan Koshkarbayev and Grigory Bulatov were awarded the Order of the Red Banner for the courage and heroism during the assault on the Reichstag. Monuments to Koshkarbayev have been erected in his home region of Akmola in Kazakhstan and in the republic's capital, Astana, and to Bulatov in Kirov.



In the early hours of May 1, 1945, the Victory Banner was raised atop the Reichstag during the Battle of Berlin

Ранним утром 1 мая 1945 года Знамя Победы было водружено на вершине Рейхстага во время битвы за Берлин



In the early hours of May 1, 1945, the Victory Banner was raised atop the Reichstag during the Battle of Berlin. It became a symbol of the triumph of the Soviet Union & its peoples in the fight against Nazism.

The legendary Red Banner №5, which became the famous Victory Banner, was raised over the dome of

the defeated Reichstag by the 756th Rifle Regiment's scouts, Sergeant Mikhail Yegorov & Junior Sergeant Meliton Kantariya.

Before the assault, a decision was made for a group of Soviet soldiers to hoist the flag over the Reichstag, which would embody the final collapse of Nazism.

A total of 9 makeshift banners were promptly made, designed after the state flag of the USSR. Ultimately, a battle flag of the 150th Order of Kutuzov 2nd Class Idritsa Rifle Division, 79th Rifle Corps, 3rd Striking Army of the 1st Belarusian Front, became the Victory Banner.

On April 29, the fierce fighting for the Reichstag began, which the Nazis had turned into a fortified point of resistance. It was defended by over a thousand men, including SS troops supported by artillery and armor.

The Reichstag was of special symbolic importance to the Nazi Germany. The Germans considered it their main fortress during the final days of WWII. The Soviet command was sure that the storming of that citadel, which was a symbol of German Nazism, would especially affect morale of the enemy and eventually completely demoralize the fascists.

On April 30 at 1:50 p.m., a Red Army unit broke into the Reichstag through breaches in the walls, with a fierce close combat unleashing. The Nazis took advantage of effectively advancing inside the building they new well, throwing grenades at Soviet soldiers & firing back with machine-guns: they basically had nothing to lose.

At 2.25 p.m., Red Army soldiers Bulatov and Koshkarbayev placed a makeshift red flag to the column of the main entrance to the Reichstag — it was the first of the banners the liberators raised over the Reichstag.

At 10.30 p.m., staff sergeants Gizet Zagitov, Alexander Lisimenko & Alexey Bobrov as well as Sergeant Mikhail Minin supported by Captain Neustroyev's battalion were the 1st to hoist a red banner on the roof of the Reichstag atop of the Goddess of Victory sculpture. The 3rd red banner was raised on the western facade of the roof by the scouts of the 674th Regiment led by Lieutenant Sorokin.

In the early hours of May 1, finally, the Red Banner №5 was raised over the dome of the captured Reichstag by the 756th Rifle Regiment's scouts, Sergeant Mikhail Yegorov & Junior Sergeant Meliton Kantariya, led by deputy battalion commander Lieutenant Alexey Berest, covered by riflemen from Ilya Syanov's squad. That flag ultimately became the Victory Banner.

By a Presidential Executive Order of April 15, 1996, the Red Banner hoisted atop of the Reichstag by Yegorov & Kantariya was declared the symbol of the Soviet people's Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945.

The Berlin Garrison surrenders

Подписана капитуляция Берлинского Гарнизона



80 years ago — on May 2, 1945 — following intense battles for the Reichstag and the surrender of other key strongholds such as the Spandau Citadel and the Zoo Tower, the Red Army captured the capital of Nazi Germany — Berlin.

In the early hours of May 2, the Berlin defence headquarters repeatedly broadcast over the radio, in both German and Russian: “We are sending our envoys to the Bismarckstrasse Bridge. We are ceasing military operations.”

Later that morning, at 6:30 am, Helmuth Weidling, General of the Artillery and Commander of Berlin Defence Area, surrendered, ordering the remaining Nazi forces in the city to stop resisting.

By 9:00 pm that evening, approximately 70,000 Wehrmacht soldiers had surrendered; altogether, over 130,000 troops were taken prisoner in Berlin. The total losses for the German forces in the Berlin offensive operation reached 380,000 killed and 400,000 captured.

The surrender of the Berlin garrison was accepted by Commander of the Soviet 8th Guards Army, General Vasily Chuikov, who had led his troops from the battlefields of Stalingrad to the heart of Berlin. Among the captured were high-ranking officers such as General Kurt Woytasch, Lieutenant General Walter Schmid-Dankward, Vice Admiral Hans-Erich Voss, Chief of Berlin Defence Staff Colonel Hans Refior, and Chief of Staff of the 56th Panzer Corps, Colonel Theodor von Dufving. Nazi propaganda leaders were also detained, including Joseph Goebbels' top deputy, Dr Hans Fritzsche, who confirmed under interrogation that Hitler, Goebbels, and General Hans Krebs all had committed suicide.

The Battle for Berlin lasted from April 24 through May 2. Despite fierce resistance from a heavily fortified German force, the experienced Red Army ultimately prevailed under brilliant strategic leadership of the General Staff and Red Army military commanders.

The fall of Berlin dealt a decisive blow to Nazi Germany, not only eliminating the regime's political centre but also hastening Germany's full surrender. The raising of the Soviet Victory Banner over the Reichstag became a symbol of the

Soviet people's triumph over Nazism and the inhumane ideology of the Third Reich.

Following this victory, Soviet forces turned to eliminate the last groups of German resistance in Czechoslovakia and Austria.

With Berlin lying in ruins following heavy fierce fighting, the lack of essential services in the city such as water, electricity, and food supply left hundreds of thousands in desperate need. Soviet medical teams immediately began working to prevent outbreaks of disease amid the devastation.

Even before the final assault, Soviet forces had set up hospitals in the suburbs. After the city's surrender, field kitchens were set up and food distribution began; the work of public transportation, including the metro, was gradually restored. By liberating Europe from Nazism, the Red Army also brought life-saving aid to the people of Berlin, helping them rebuild and begin a new, peaceful chapter.

50 years since South Vietnam's liberation

50-летие освобождения юга Вьетнама



April 30 marks 50 years since South Vietnam's liberation. On this day in 1975, South Vietnam, a puppet regime, fell, unable to resist the offensive by the People's Army of Vietnam and the popular uprising. It is celebrated annually as the Day of the Liberation of the South and National Reunification in Vietnam.

This signalled the end to many years of war, creating a path towards national unity, while also serving as a symbol of unbreakable courage and resilience of the people of Vietnam in their fight for their sovereignty and unity.

When Japan capitulated and World War II ended, Ho Chi Minh, who at the time led Viet Minh, a paramilitary and political organisation fighting for

Vietnam's independence from France and Japan, immediately proclaimed the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) across the entire territory of Vietnam.

France refused to accept losing its former colony and sent an expeditionary force to Indochina. In the fall of 1945, these troops reinstituted the colonial administration in southern Vietnam.

Feeling their impotence, they resorted to killing civilians, torturing and raping people, destroying their homes and civilian infrastructure, and looting. Nevertheless, despite all these atrocities, Paris found itself in an untenable, if not hopeless situation by 1954. Signed in July 1954, the so-called Geneva Accords signalled the end of the eight-year war. The document provided for temporarily dividing Vietnam into two zones along the 17th parallel north, as well as holding elections.

The US refused to accept this outcome. It viewed what happened in Vietnam as part of an effort to promote communism in the region.

This is how the US started using toxic chemicals during the War in Vietnam. It happened on August 10, 1961. Operation Ranch Hand consisted of spraying defoliants and herbicides across South Vietnam.

On March 2, 1965, the US launched Operation Rolling Thunder by sending its air force to carpet bomb North Vietnam. These bombing attacks continued until October 31, 1968.

Unlike other precedents, these bombing attacks intentionally targeted civilians and non-military civilian infrastructure in the DRV.

During the war, the American troops dropped over 100 kilogrammes of bombs per person in Vietnam, both North and South, while also spraying the territory with 77 million litres of toxic chemicals which cause mutations. Over 14 percent of Vietnam's territory was contaminated with these extremely toxic agents.

March 16, 1968, marked one of the most tragic episodes in the Vietnam war. On that day, the US Army committed a mass murder of unarmed civilians in the village of My Lai, Quang Ngai Province. After artillery shelling, US Army soldiers from C Company landed west of the village and opened indiscriminate fire at the peasants who were working on rice paddies. The Americans threw

grenades at the huts and tortured and shot their residents. Overall, they brutally killed 567 civilians, including 173 children and 182 women, 17 of them pregnant women.

Despite Washington's cruel attempts to snatch the initiative, the US Army continued to sustain heavy losses, which made the war increasingly more unpopular in the US.

In January 1969, the conflicting parties started negotiating an agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Vietnam. The US finished the withdrawal of its troops from Vietnam on March 29, 1973.

Contrary to the sides' agreement to hold free and democratic elections in South Vietnam under international control, that provision was not implemented and hostilities soon resumed with renewed vigour.

On April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese forces raised their flag over the Independence Palace in Saigon. The footage of Operation Frequent Wind, conducted by the US on April 29 and 30, 1975, to evacuate Americans from Saigon went down in history as a bright example of a shameful retreat.

That is how the disgraceful and pointless Vietnam war, with its numerous war crimes and massacres of civilians, ended for the US.

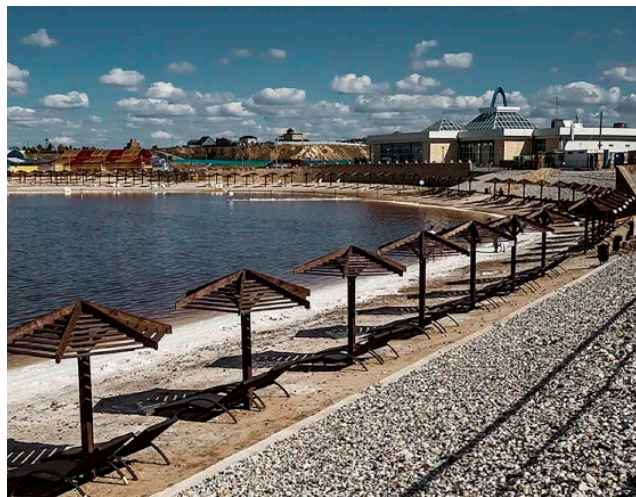
RUSSIA'S SCENERY КРАСОТЫ РОССИИ

Оренбургская область Orenburg region



RUSSIA'S SCENERY КРАСОТЫ РОССИИ

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